

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1—20 were originally filed.

5 Claims 3, 7, 10 and 11 were previously canceled without prejudice of the right to later re-file the same or similar claims. Claim 15 is currently cancelled without prejudice of the right to later re-file the same or a similar claim.

Claims 1, 12, 14 and 20 are currently amended.

No claims are newly added.

10 Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4—6, 8, 9, 12—14 and 16—20 are currently pending.

1. (Currently Amended.) A method for generating a smudge resistant image with an ink jet imaging device, the method comprising:
15 generating, ~~using a first carriage in an image printing zone,~~ an image on a print medium;
~~depositing, using a second carriage in an image protecting zone,~~
depositing an overcoat solution onto the image; and
depositing a fixer solution, configured for combination with the overcoat
20 solution, onto the overcoat solution, image to form a substantially smudge resistant image;
~~wherein generating the image is performed by at least one first pen and depositing the overcoat and fixer solution is performed by at least~~
25 ~~one second pen; and~~
~~wherein the at least one second pen has a drop volume greater than the drop volume of the at least one first pen.~~

S/N 10/665,751

2. (Original.) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printing zone is separate from the image protecting zone.
3. (Canceled).
- 5 4. (Original.) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the overcoat solution in combination with the fixer solution is water insoluble.
- 10 5. (Original.) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the overcoat solution comprises an acrylate polymer.
6. (Original.) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fixer solution comprises a low molecular weight polymer with a high charge density.
- 15 7. (Canceled).
8. (Previously Presented.) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein depositing the overcoat and the fixer solutions further comprises blooming the overcoat and the fixer solutions for a distance of one or more droplets beyond an edge of the image such that portions of the print medium that are more than the distance of one or more droplets beyond an edge of the image are not coated with the overcoat and/or the fixer.
- 20 9. (Original.) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least partially drying the image before depositing the overcoat and the fixer solutions.
- 25 10. (Canceled).
- 30 11. (Canceled).

S/N 10/665,751

Response to Office Action Dated 20 April 2004

12. (Currently Amended.) An ink jet imaging device to generate a smudge resistant image, the device comprising:
a processor coupled to a memory, the memory containing computer-executable instructions for:
generating, by a first carriage in a printing zone, an image on a print medium; and
depositing, by a second carriage in an image protecting zone, an overcoat solution and a fixer solution onto the image to form a substantially smudge resistant image. image, wherein the overcoat solution in combination with the fixer solution is water insoluble.
13. (Original.) An ink jet imaging device as recited in claim 12, wherein the imaging device is an ink jet imaging device.
14. (Currently Amended.) An ink jet imaging device as recited in claim 12, wherein the image is generated by one or more first pens ~~positioned on the first carriage~~, and wherein the overcoat and fixer solution are deposited by one or more second pens ~~positioned on the second carriage~~.
15. (Canceled).
16. (Original.) An ink jet imaging device as recited in claim 12, wherein the overcoat solution comprises an acrylate polymer.

Response to Office Action Dated 20 April 2004

S/N 10/665,751

17. (Previously Presented) An ink jet imaging device as recited in claim 12,
wherein the computer-executable instructions for depositing the
overcoat and the fixer solutions further comprises instructions for
5 blooming the overcoat and the fixer solutions for a distance of one or
more droplets beyond an edge of the image.
18. (Original.) An ink jet imaging device to generate a smudge resistant
image, the ink-jet imaging device comprising processing means for:
10 forming, by a first carriage in a printing zone, an image on a print
medium; and
depositing, by a second carriage in an image protecting zone, an
overcoat solution and a fixer solution onto the image such that the
image is substantially smudge resistant.
19. (Previously Presented.) An ink jet imaging device as recited in claim 18,
further comprising processing means for at least partially drying the
image before depositing the overcoat and the fixer solutions.

S/N 10/665,751

Response to Office Action Dated 20 April 2004

20. (Currently Amended.) An ink jet imaging device to generate a smudge resistant image, the ink-jet imaging device comprising:
a first and second carriage for depositing solution onto a print medium;
processing circuitry coupled to a memory and to the first and second carriage, the memory comprising computer-executable instructions for:
- 5 (a) generating, by the first carriage in a printing zone, an image, the image being formed on the print medium; and
- (b) depositing, by the second carriage in an image protecting zone, an overcoat solution and a fixer solution onto the
- 10 image to form the smudge resistant ~~image~~; and image, wherein the overcoat solution in combination with the fixer solution are water insoluble; and
- wherein while generating the image and depositing the overcoat solution, the processor operates the first carriage independently
- 15 with respect to synchronization from the second carriage.